



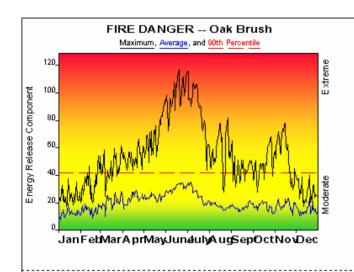








Southwest Colorado Fire Danger Fuel Model F – Oak Brush



Fire Danger Area:

- Fuel Model F Oak Brush
- DRC Forecast Zone 207
- All Except Morfield

Fuel Model F Oak Brush

Fire Danger Interpretation:



EXTREME -- Use extreme caution
(Caution) -- Watch for change

Moderate -- Lower Potential, but always be aware

Maximum -- Highest Energy Release Component by day for 1972 - 2005

Average -- shows peak fire season 90th Percentile -- Only 10% of the days from 1972 - 2005 had an Energy Release Component above 41

Local Thresholds - Watch out: Combinations of any of these factors can greatly increase fire behavior: 20' Wind Speed over 15 mph, RH less than 20%, Temperature over 90, Woodv fuel Moisture less than 120

Fuel Model F OAK BRUSH - The Gambel Oak fuel type in Southwest Colorado is generally found between 7,000 and 8,500 feet elevation. Fuels generally consist of Gambel Oak (0 - 25 feet tall) with Ponderosa Pine overstory, oak being the primary carrier of fire and facilitates the transition for crown fire initiation in the pine. Pockets (50-80 acres) of pure Gambel Oak are randomly intermixed in this zone, primarily on south aspects. A majority of the pine/oak zone is characterized by gentle rolling topography. Gambel Oak that has been pre-heated by fire has potential to re-burn. Frost damaged oak may exhibit extreme fire behavior. Other environmental factors that are conducive to extreme fire behavior are winds greater than 15 MPH, relative humidity under 20%, and live fuel moistures below 90%. Soil moisture is heavily depleted by Gambel Oak, causing additional stress on the Ponderosa Pine in and around oak clumps. This is likely a mixed severity fire regime fuel type, with a fire frequency from 1 to 22 years.

Dates to Remember: Bircher Fire, 7/20/00, 23,220 Acres, BI-47, ERC-55

West Toe Fire, 6/21/86, 5,500 Acres, BI-28, ERC-35